

Tyler Beede, Ben Bowden, Walker Buehler, Tyler Campbell, Ro Coleman, Vince Conde, Will Cooper, Jason Delay, Karl Ellison, Tyler Ferguson, Carson Fulmer, Tyler Green, Chris Harvey, Ryan Johnson, John Kilichowski, Aubrey McCarty, Brian Miller, Jared Miller, Penn Murfee, John Norwood, Drake Parker, T.J. Pecorano, Adam Ravenelle, Bryan Reynolds, Steven Rice, Nolan Rogers, Jordan Sheffield, Kyle Smith, Luke Stephenson, Hayden Stone, Dansby Swanson, Xavier Turner, Zander Wiel, and Rhett Wiseman.

Go Does!

AWARDING CONGRESSIONAL GOLD MEDAL TO RAOUL WALLENBERG

Mr. CARDIN. Mr. President, I wish to honor the memory of one of the world's most courageous humanitarians: Raoul Wallenberg. Seventy years ago today, Raoul Wallenberg arrived in Budapest, risking his own life to save the lives of tens of thousands of Hungarian Jews from the atrocities of the Holocaust.

Raoul Wallenberg emerged as a champion of those who were persecuted during one of the darkest chapters of human history. Mr. Wallenberg served on the War Refugee Board, an independent government agency established in 1944 by President Franklin D. Roosevelt and tasked with the "immediate rescue and relief of the Jews of Europe and other victims of enemy persecution." Through his courageous work on the War Refugee Board, Mr. Wallenberg prevented the deportation of tens of thousands of Hungarian Jews to Auschwitz-Birkenau. Wallenberg risked his own life and livelihood in order to save Jewish people through a variety of means by issuing thousands of protective documents for them; by securing their release from deportation trains, death march convoys, and labor service brigades; and by establishing the International Ghetto of protected houses.

While the Holocaust showed us that human beings are capable of committing unspeakably evil acts, heroes like Raoul Wallenberg proved that we are also capable of bravery, selflessness, and goodness.

It is only fitting that we passed legislation in 2012 bestowing one of America's highest civilian awards, the Congressional Gold Medal, to one of the greatest heroes this world has known. That actual medal is being awarded to Raoul Wallenberg's family in a ceremony today to honor his legacy.

American citizenship is not a requirement for receiving the Congressional Gold Medal; but if it were required, Wallenberg would be eligible. He received honorary U.S. citizenship in 1981 thanks to the efforts of former Congressman Tom Lantos (D-CA, 12th) who, as a 16-year-old in 1944, escaped from a Nazi forced labor camp outside of Budapest and hid with his aunt in a safe house Wallenberg had established.

Throughout the world, streets have been named after Raoul Wallenberg in-

cluding one here in Washington, where the U.S. Holocaust Museum is located. Monuments bearing his name are testaments to Raoul Wallenberg's heroism and to the thousands of lives he saved during the Holocaust. Awards are given in his name to honor humanitarians around the world. The most important reminders of all that he accomplished are the human ones the descendants of those who survived the Holocaust, thanks to Raoul Wallenberg's heroism. Raoul Wallenberg left this earth too soon but he accomplished more in his short life than most of us could ever hope to.

We can honor Mr. Wallenberg by trying to live with the courage and conviction that he demonstrated in his short time. By doing so, we can do right by him, and we can do right by all those whose lives were lost or forever changed by the Holocaust.

HONORING OUR ARMED FORCES

SECOND LIEUTENANT TOBIAS C. ALEXANDER

Mr. INHOFE. Mr. President, I wish to remember the life and sacrifice of a remarkable young man, Army 2LT Tobias C. Alexander. Along with one other soldier, Toby died May 20, 2012 of injuries he sustained when his unit was attacked with improvised explosive devices in Tarin Kowt, Afghanistan, in support of Operation Enduring Freedom.

Toby was born June 8, 1981 in Wesel, Germany and graduated from Eglin High School in 1999.

Toby entered the Active Duty Army in August 2002 as a signal intel analyst. He deployed to Afghanistan in 2007 in support of Operation Enduring Freedom with the Combined Joint Special Operations Task Force—Afghanistan (3rd Special Forces Group, Airborne). He obtained the rank of sergeant first class.

In 2011 he earned a bachelors' degree in interdisciplinary studies from Cameron University where he was a part of the Reserve Officer Training Corps. After receiving his commission, he attended the Field Artillery Basic Officer Leader Course B at Fort Sill, OK and was then assigned to the 1st Battalion, 14th Field Artillery, 214th Fires Brigade. He served as a platoon leader for Alpha Battery before being selected for the Security Forces Advisory Team, SFAT, which was responsible for the training of Afghanistan's national security forces. He deployed for his second tour to Afghanistan in June 2011.

His friend, Myles Mendez, said "He was the guy you went to if you needed to know something, so a lot of people were always going to him with 'What's this? What's that? Can you help me?' He was the go-to guy."

"I honestly don't think that he would have had it any other way. I think if he had to choose to go out, I think he would have wanted to have it serving his country. He was a patriot."

On May 30, 2012, the family held funeral services at Cameron Baptist Church in Lawton, OK.

He is survived by his wife Amanda, his children: Angelicia, Kevin and Lexie, and his parents Bill and Heike Alexander.

Today we remember Army 2LT Tobias C. Alexander, a young man who loved his family and country, and gave his life as a sacrifice for freedom.

ARMY PRIVATE FIRST CLASS JON R. TOWNSEND

Mr. President, I also wish to remember Army PFC Jon R. Townsend. Along with three other soldiers, Jon died September 16, 2012 in Zabul province, Afghanistan, in support of Operation Enduring Freedom due to injuries sustained due to enemy small arms fire.

Jon was born October 28, 1992 and was raised in Claremore, OK. Two days after he graduated from Claremore Sequoyah High School in 2011 he left for Army basic training at 17. His friends and family watched as he transformed—downing 5 dozen eggs a week—from an average kid into a bulked-up recruit.

After completing initial training, Jon was assigned to the 1st Battalion, 23rd Infantry Regiment, 3rd Stryker Brigade Combat Team, 2nd Infantry Division, based at Joint Base Lewis-McChord, WA. He deployed to Afghanistan in December 2011.

His mother said that Jon believed in the mission and was particularly fond of the children he encountered. He asked her to send him care packages with treats that he could give his "babies," and he'd use his wet wipes to clean the children. "Jon loved life and wanted to share it with everybody," she said. "He wanted to make everybody happy."

In February 2012, he went home on leave from Afghanistan and married his high school sweetheart, Brittany Carden. They had 3 days together as a married couple before he departed back to Afghanistan.

"I'm not mad. . . Jon did this because he loved his country," his mother said. "He wanted to make it safe, and (joining the military) was the only way he knew how."

On September 28, 2012, the family held a service at First Baptist Church and Jon was laid to rest in Lone Chapel Cemetery in Claremore, OK.

Jon is survived by his wife Brittany Townsend; Lois Harrison, granny; Karen (Katy Harrison) Nelson, mother; Aunt Honee Sue (Harrison) Grumbein and spouse Keith Grumbien and their children: Kobe, Kalvin, and Katelyn of Foyil; respected father-like figure Roland Long of Foyil; Jeremy Nelson, brother, and spouse, Courtney and their children: Austin, Jeremiah, Keegan and Xelia Nelson; Andrew Bingham; and Caleb and Myah Smith; Jennifer (Nelson) Tucker and spouse Paul Tucker and children: Tanner and Addison; Nancy (Roberts) Carden, mother-in-law; James L. Carden, Jr., father; Cherish (Carden) Moye, sister, and husband Brent Moye; and James Larry Carden, III, brother; and faithful four-legged friend, Teddy. He was preceded in death by his father Robert

Wayne Townsend, cousin Shawn Mersa, maternal grandfather (Bud) or Carroll Harrison, Jr., Sharon Rice (Harrison) aunt.

Today we remember Army PFC Jon R. Townsend, a young man who loved his family and country, and gave his life as a sacrifice for freedom.

HOSPITALMAN ERIC D. WARREN

Mr. President, as well I would like to pay tribute to the life and sacrifice of Navy HM Eric D. "Doc" Warren. Eric died May 26, 2012 of injuries he sustained from an improvised explosive device in Sangin district, Helmand Province, Afghanistan, in support of Operation Enduring Freedom.

Eric was born November 22, 1988 and was a resident of Shawnee, OK. As a child, he was active in Cub Scouts, little league sports, and earned a black belt in Tae Kwon Do. Eric was also active in his church youth group, football, wrestling, and drama.

After graduating from McLoud High School, he enlisted in the Navy, graduated from Corpsman School and completed Fleet Marine Force training as a combat corpsman. He was then assigned to 1st Battalion, 8th Marine Regiment, 2nd Marine Division, II Marine Expeditionary Force, Camp Lejeune, NC.

He was deployed to Afghanistan in January 2012 for his third tour of duty.

"When he was home last time, I shook his hand and he hugged my neck and whispered in my ear 'pray for me,'" Reverend Ron Baldrige said. "I prayed for him every day."

Eric was a skinny kid with a mischievous streak who took pleasure in challenging his pastor and youth minister, Reverend Baldrige explained. Kevin Spurgin, youth minister at Eric's church said Hospitalman Warren knew the possible consequences of being in one of the most dangerous areas of Afghanistan, but any fears he may have had were overcome by pride for the job he was doing there.

His father, Marvin, said his son never put himself first and the only enemy he knew was at war. "He was really passionate about being with his guys over there," said Marvin, pausing to wipe away his tears. "He wanted to make sure they were safe."

On June 5, 2012, the family held a funeral service at Downtown Pentecostal Holiness Church in Shawnee, OK. There was a 60-second standing ovation for Eric during his funeral service to commemorate Hospitalman Warren's service to his country, and the ultimate sacrifice he and his family made.

Eric is the son of Donna Beth and Marvin Warren Jr., who adopted 11-year-old Eric Warren after marrying his mother. His birth father is William Burris, according to his obituary.

Today we remember Navy HM Eric D. "Doc" Warren, a young man who loved his family and country, and gave his life as a sacrifice for freedom.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

CHICKASAW COUNTY, IOWA

• Mr. HARKIN. Mr. President, the strength of my State of Iowa lies in its vibrant local communities, where citizens come together to foster economic development, make smart investments to expand opportunity, and take the initiative to improve the health and well-being of residents. Over the decades, I have witnessed the growth and revitalization of so many communities across my State. It has been deeply gratifying to see how my work in Congress has supported these local efforts.

I have always believed in accountability for public officials, and this, my final year in the Senate, is an appropriate time to give an accounting of my work across four decades representing Iowa in Congress. I take pride in accomplishments that have been national in scope—for instance, passing the Americans with Disabilities Act and spearheading successful farm bills. But I take a very special pride in projects that have made a big difference in local communities across my State.

Today, I would like to give an accounting of my work with leaders and residents of Chickasaw County to build a legacy of a stronger local economy, better schools and educational opportunities, and a healthier, safer community.

Between 2001 and 2013, the creative leadership in your community has worked with me to successfully acquire financial assistance from programs I have fought hard to support, which have provided more than \$4.2 million to the local economy.

Of course, one of my favorite memories of working together is the success Alta Vista has had in accessing farm bill funds for important projects such as obtaining a fire truck, wastewater treatment, and conservation activities.

Among the highlights:

School grants: Every child in Iowa deserves to be educated in a classroom that is safe, accessible, and modern. That is why, for the past decade and a half, I have secured funding for the innovative Iowa Demonstration Construction Grant Program—better known among educators in Iowa as Harkin grants for public schools construction and renovation. Across 15 years, Harkin grants worth more than \$132 million have helped school districts to fund a range of renovation and repair efforts—everything from updating fire safety systems to building new schools. In many cases, these Federal dollars have served as the needed incentive to leverage local public and private dollars, so it often has a tremendous multiplier effect within a school district. Over the years, Chickasaw County has received \$980,307 in Harkin grants.

Agricultural and rural development: Because I grew up in a small town in rural Iowa, I have always been a loyal

friend and fierce advocate for family farmers and rural communities. I have been a member of the House or Senate Agriculture Committee for 40 years—including more than 10 years as chairman of the Senate Agriculture Committee. Across the decades, I have championed farm policies for Iowans that include effective farm income protection and commodity programs; strong, progressive conservation assistance for agricultural producers; renewable energy opportunities; and robust economic development in our rural communities. Since 1991, through various programs authorized through the farm bill, Chickasaw County has received more than \$2 million from a variety of farm bill programs.

Keeping Iowa communities safe: I also firmly believe that our first responders need to be appropriately trained and equipped, able to respond to both local emergencies and to statewide challenges such as, for instance, the methamphetamine epidemic. Since 2001, Chickasaw County's fire departments have received over \$1 million for firefighter safety and operations equipment.

Disability rights: Growing up, I loved and admired my brother Frank, who was deaf. But I was deeply disturbed by the discrimination and obstacles he faced every day. That is why I have always been a passionate advocate for full equality for people with disabilities. As the primary author of the Americans with Disabilities Act and the ADA Amendments Act, I have had four guiding goals for our fellow citizens with disabilities: equal opportunity, full participation, independent living and economic self-sufficiency. Nearly a quarter century since passage of the ADA, I see remarkable changes in communities everywhere I go in Iowa—not just in curb cuts or closed-captioned television, but in the full participation of people with disabilities in our society and economy, folks who at long last have the opportunity to contribute their talents and to be fully included. These changes have increased economic opportunities for all citizens of Chickasaw County, both those with and without disabilities. And they make us proud to be a part of a community and country that respects the worth and civil rights of all of our citizens.

This is at least a partial accounting of my work on behalf of Iowa, and specifically Chickasaw County, during my time in Congress. In every case, this work has been about partnerships, cooperation, and empowering folks at the State and local level, including in Chickasaw County, to fulfill their own dreams and initiatives. And, of course, this work is never complete. Even after I retire from the Senate, I have no intention of retiring from the fight for a better, fairer, richer Iowa. I will always be profoundly grateful for the opportunity to serve the people of Iowa as their Senator.●